

February 2021 Climate Summary

Overview

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued March 1, 2021 9:07 PM MDT



Synopsis

February 2021 temperatures and precipitation was quite varied across New Mexico. Temperatures were near to above normal in the west, near to below normal in central areas, and well below normal in the east, especially as you get closer to the Texas border. Precipitation was mostly near to below normal, but there were small areas of above normal precipitation, mainly in central areas.

Strong winds buffeted New Mexico on the 3rd and 4th. The most impressive series of storms this winter struck on the 13th – 18th with 3 storms piling up the snow. During this time record smashing cold air settled over New Mexico.



Los Lunas, ©Brian Young, 2/14



Tijeras, © Mary Marash, 2/14



Santa Fe, © Gregory North, 2/16

February 2021 Climate Summary

State Temperatures

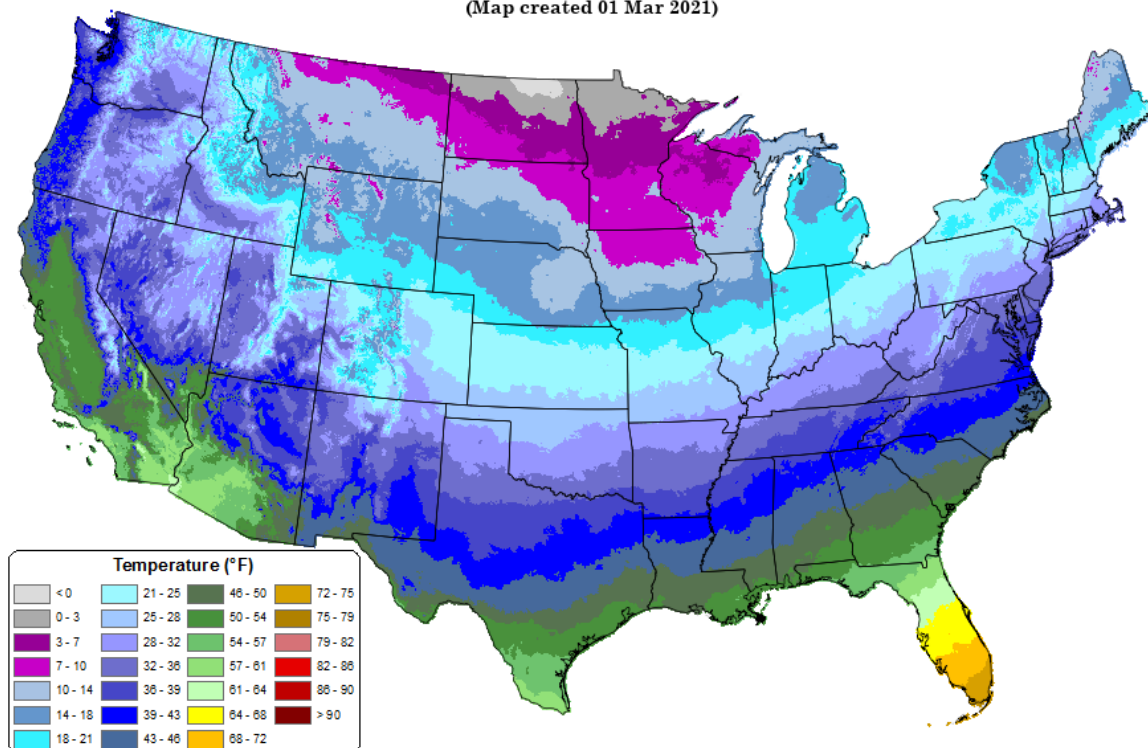
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Albuquerque, NM
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Actual

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2021

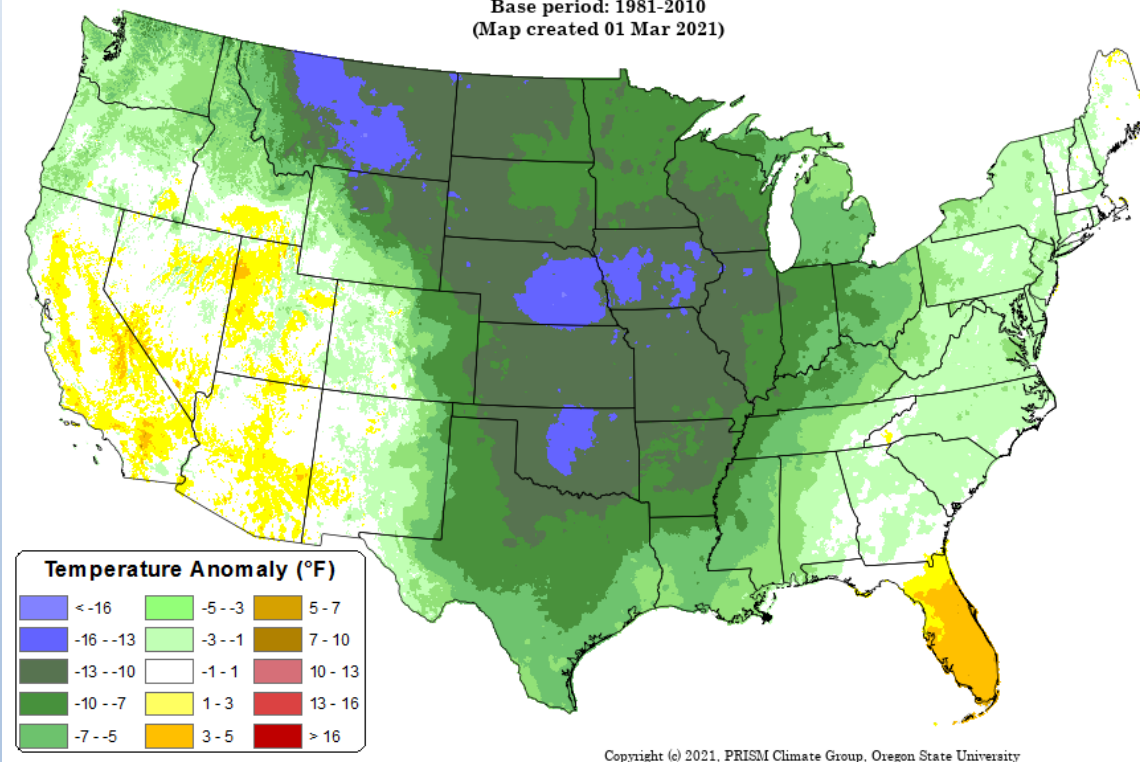
Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021
(Map created 01 Mar 2021)



Anomaly

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 01 Mar 2021)



February 2021 Climate Summary

State Precipitation

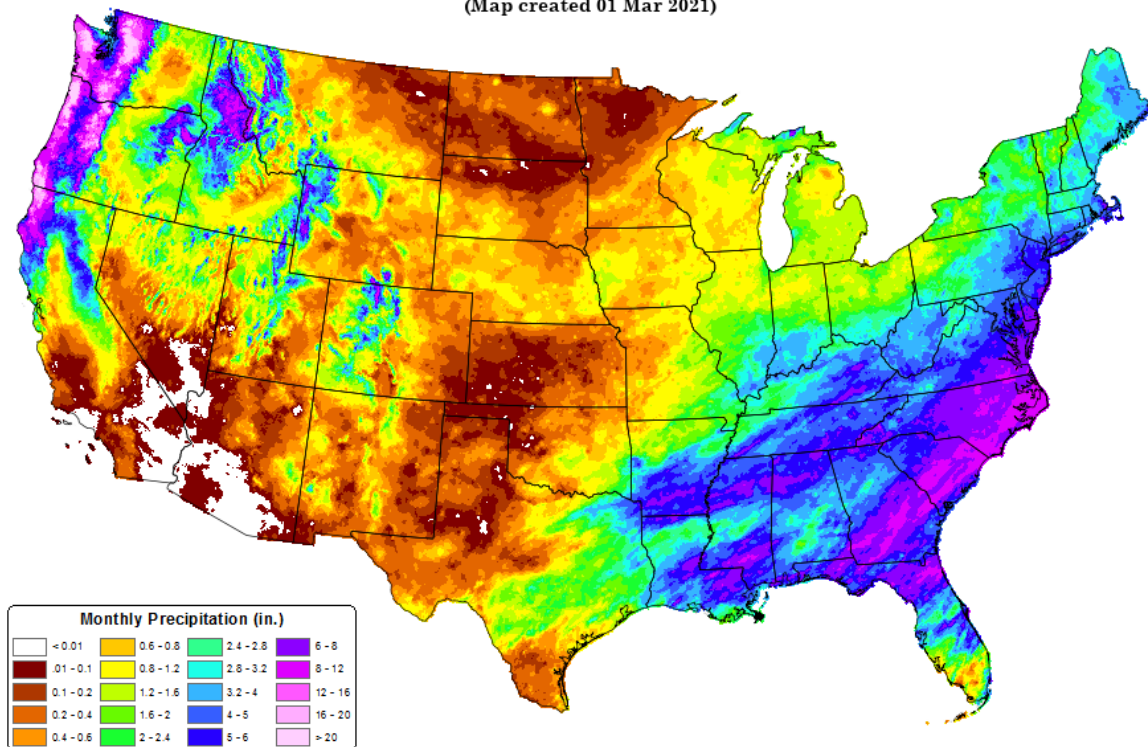
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Actual

Total Precipitation: 01 Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021
(Map created 01 Mar 2021)

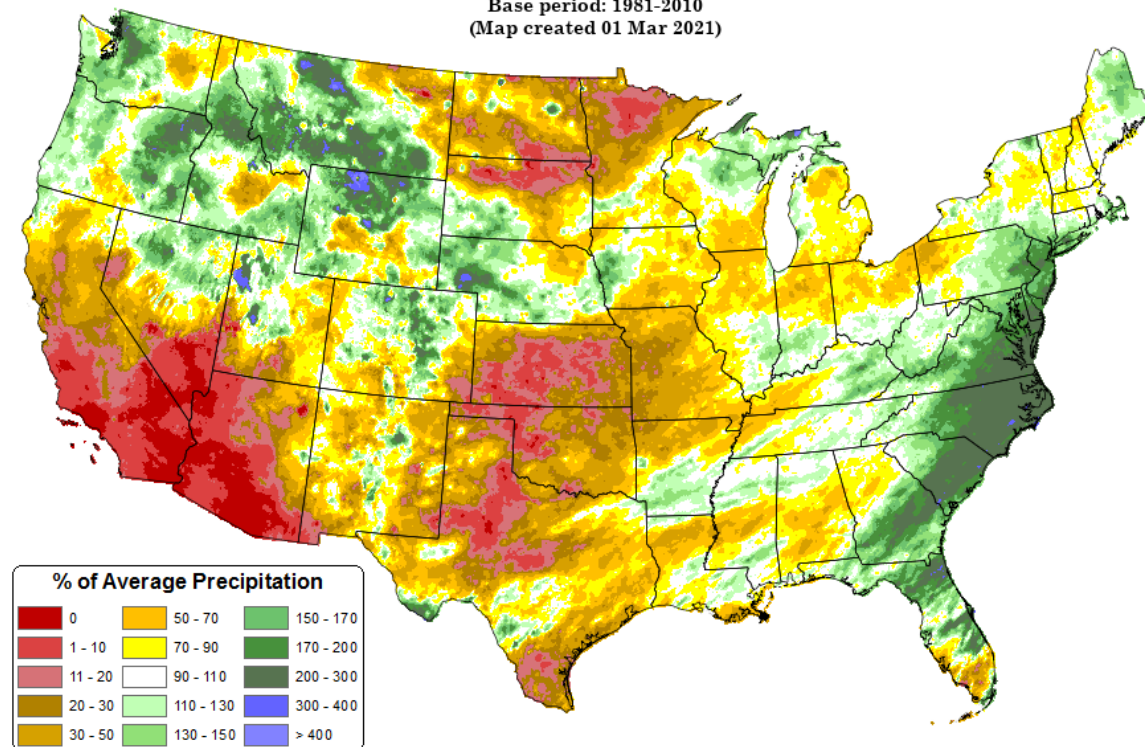


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Anomaly

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 01 Mar 2021)

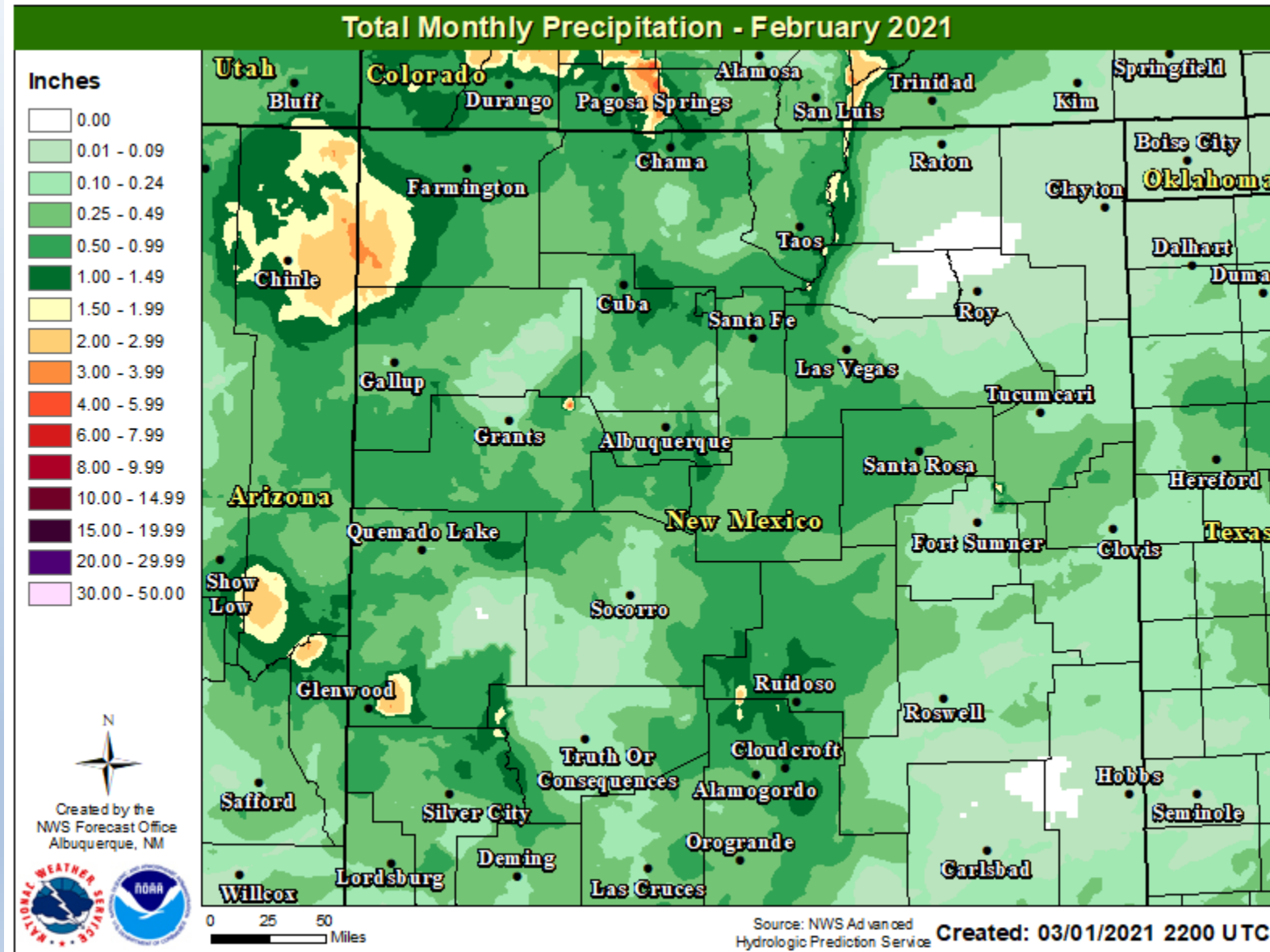


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February 2021 Climate Summary

Monthly Precipitation

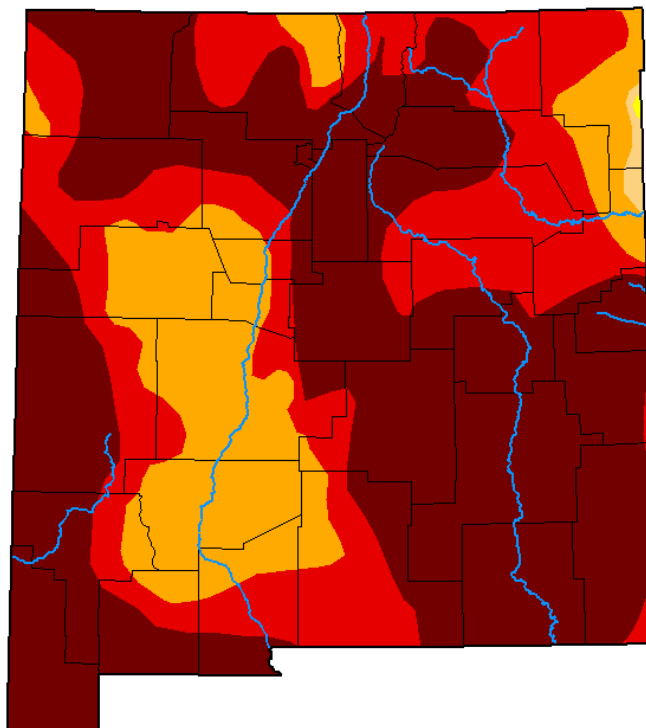
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Here is a more detailed image of the February 2021 precipitation.

February 2

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



February 2, 2021
(Released Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.96	99.57	81.83	54.03
Last Week 01-26-2021	0.00	100.00	99.96	99.57	82.05	54.25
3 Months Ago 11-03-2020	0.00	100.00	99.98	84.82	66.18	7.21
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
One Year Ago 02-04-2020	29.53	70.47	31.90	11.80	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

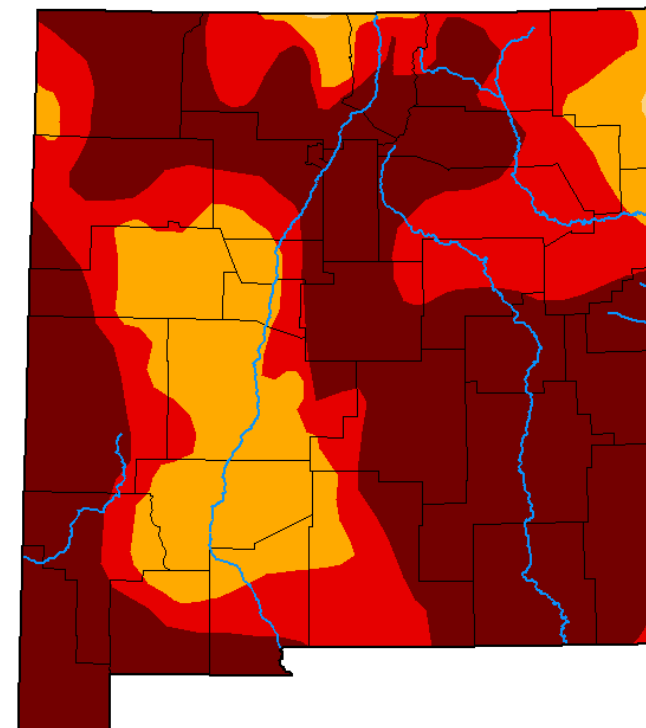
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

February 23

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



February 23, 2021
(Released Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.91	82.03	54.24
Last Week 02-16-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.93	82.23	54.24
3 Months Ago 11-24-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.59	79.21	50.95
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
One Year Ago 02-25-2020	44.24	55.76	28.52	11.40	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



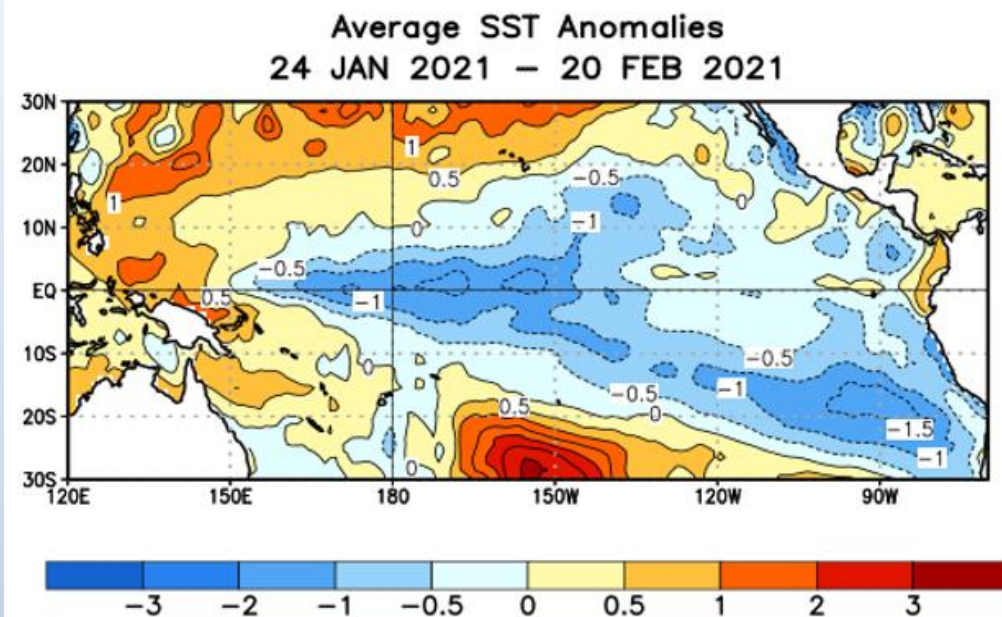
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Very little change occurred to drought conditions through much of February 2021. Extreme to exceptional drought covers nearly 82% of the state, of which over 54% is exceptional.

February 2021 Climate Summary

ENSO

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EQ. Subsurface Temperature Anomalies (deg C)

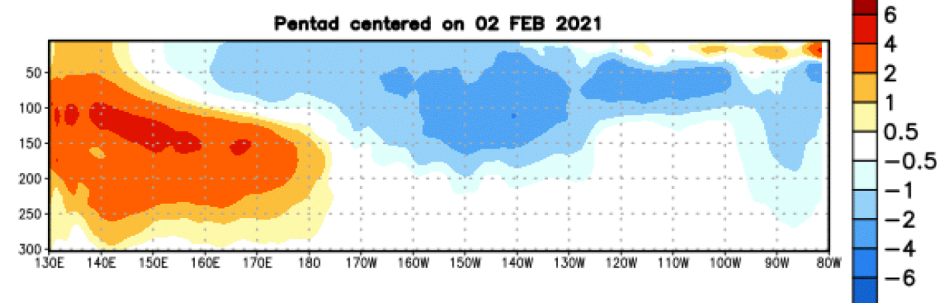


Figure 4. Depth-longitude section of equatorial Pacific upper-ocean (0-300m) temperature anomalies ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) centered on the pentad of 2 February 2021. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means.

EQ. Upper-Ocean Heat Anoms. (deg C) for 180–100W

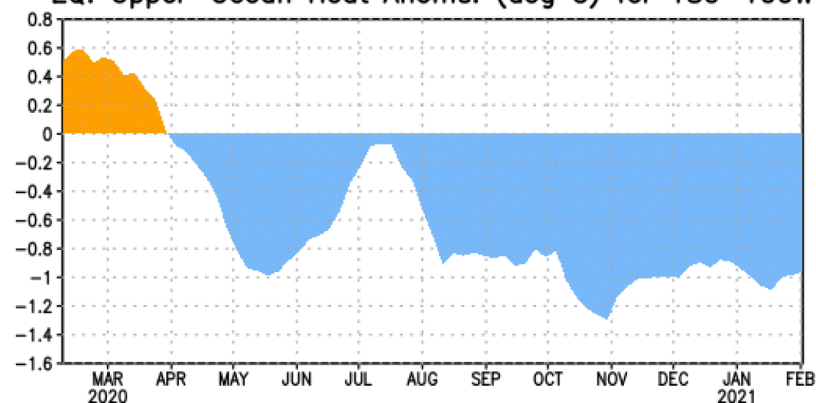
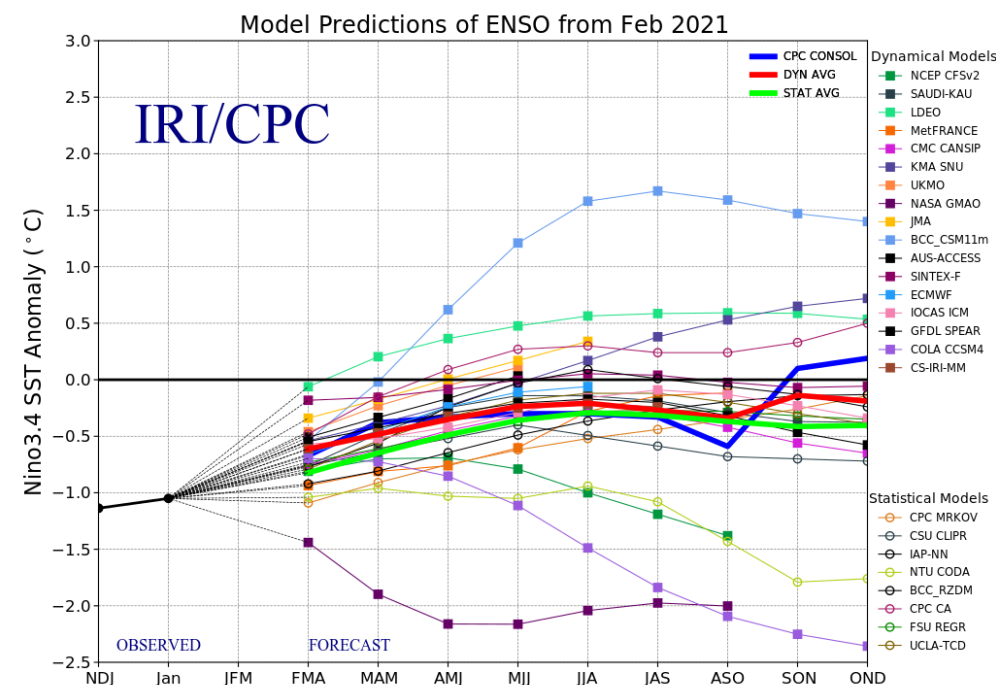


Figure 3. Area-averaged upper-ocean heat content anomaly ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) in the equatorial Pacific (5°N – 5°S , 180° – 100°W). The heat content anomaly is computed as the departure from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means.



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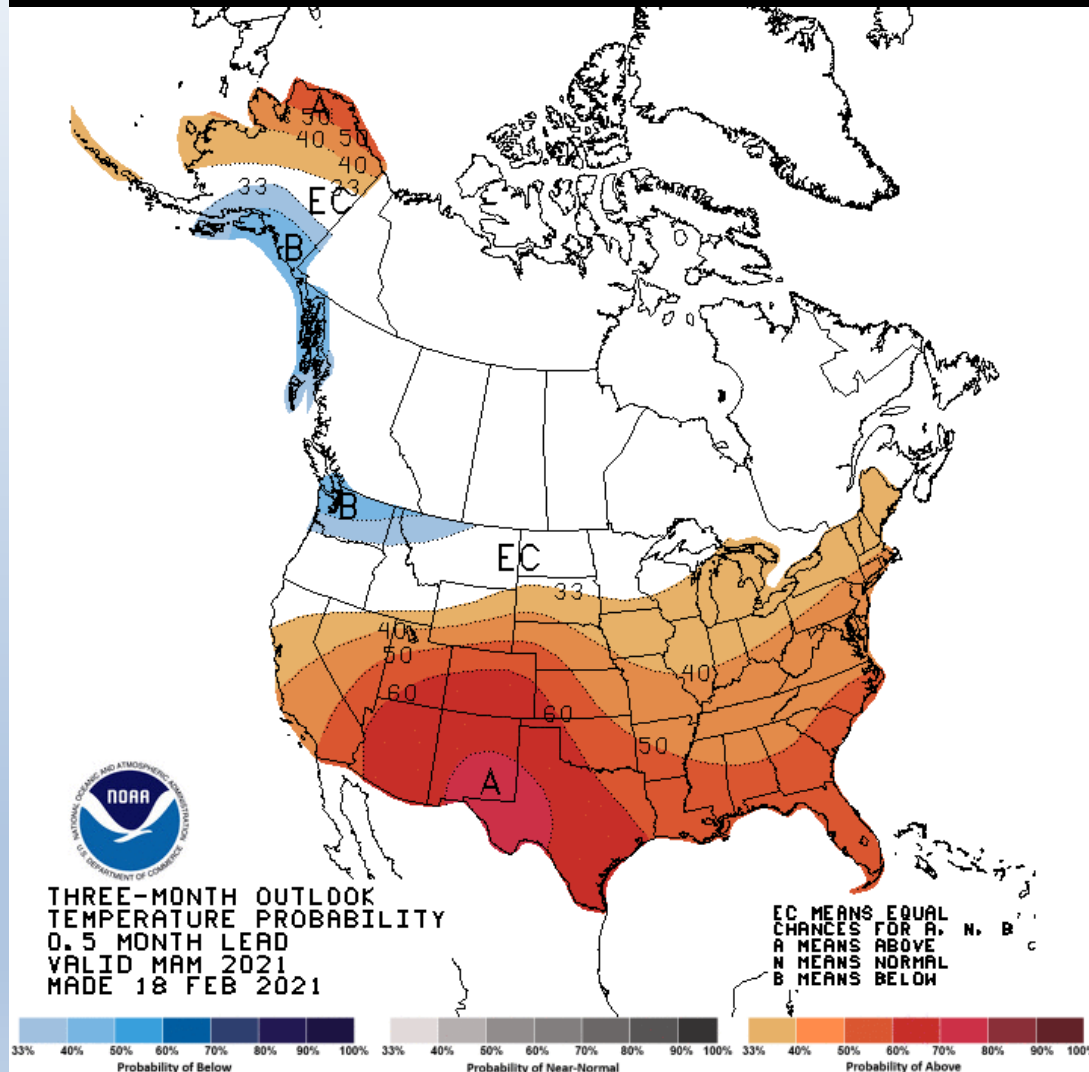
Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

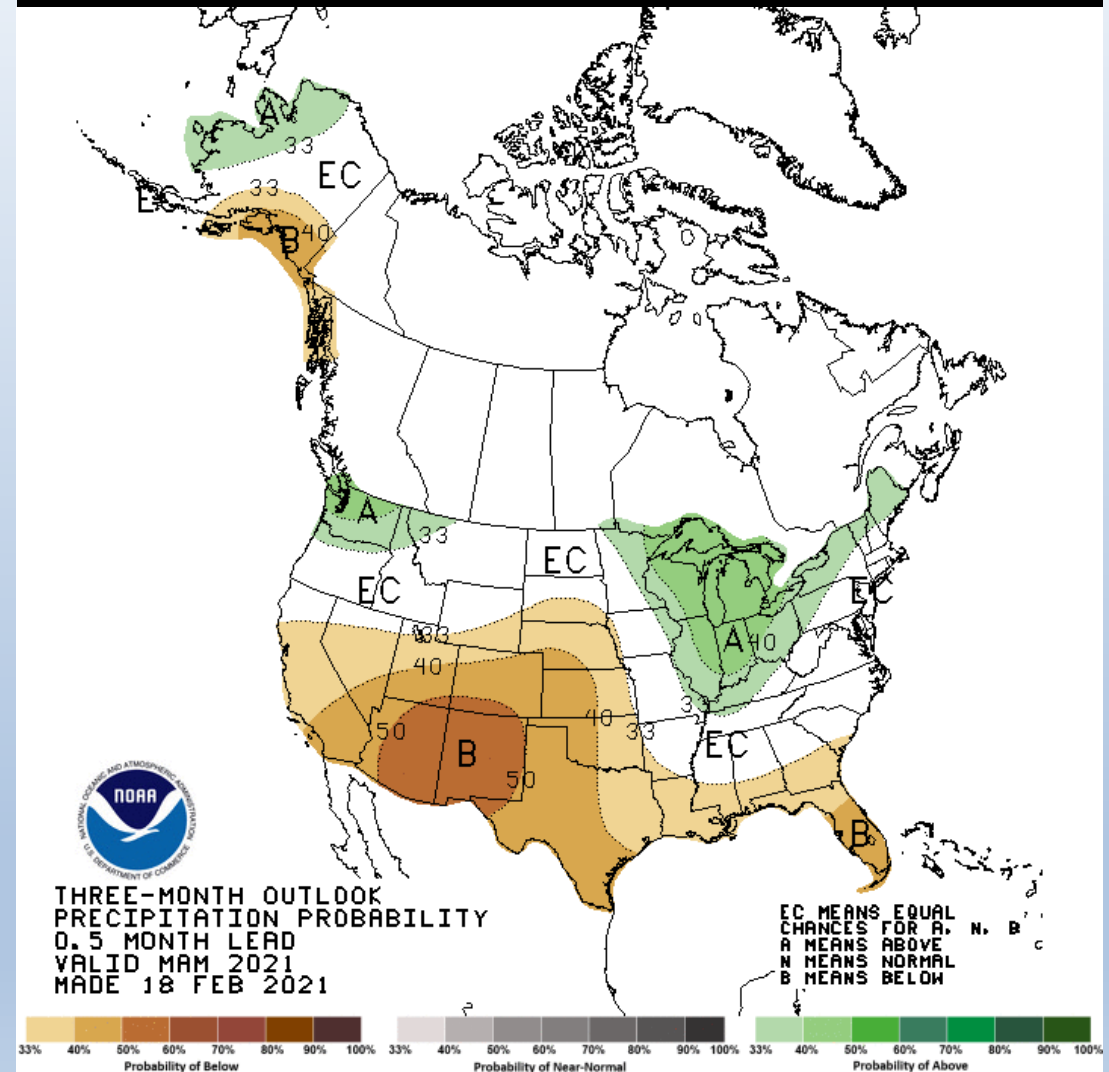
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Temperature March - April - May



Precipitation March - April - May



The three month climate outlook strongly favors above normal temperature probabilities while precipitation favors below normal probabilities. This spring outlook will favor persistent or worsening drought conditions over NM.

February 2021 Climate Summary

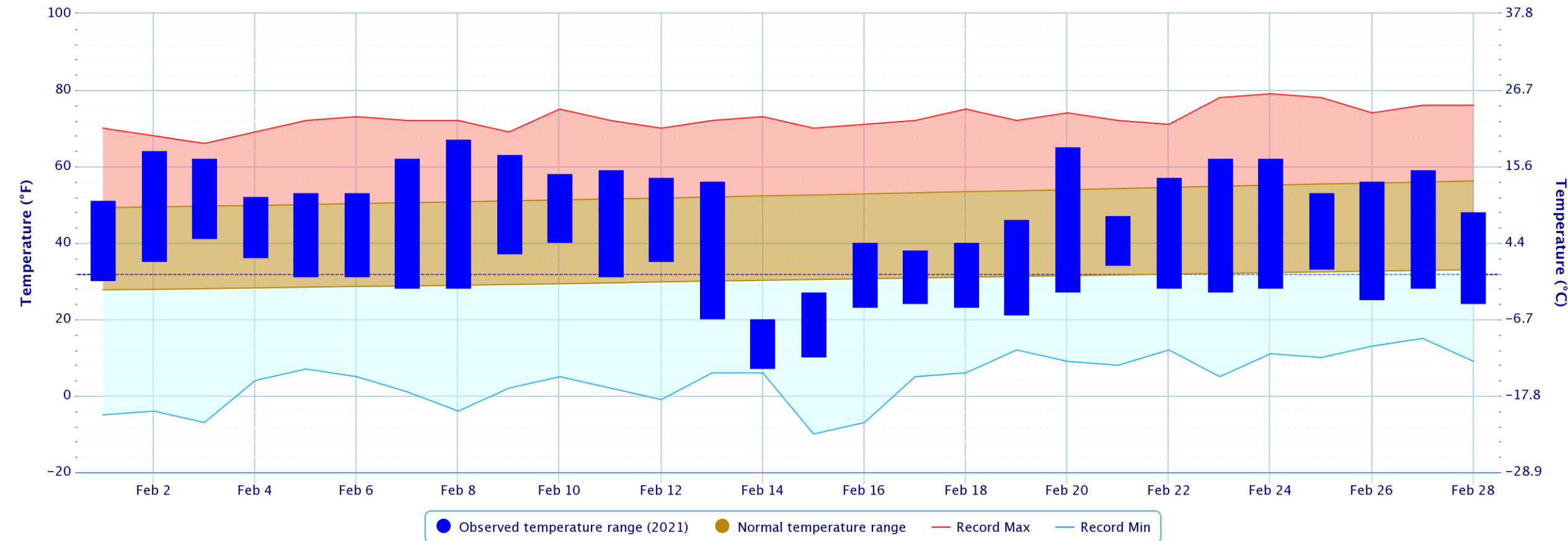
Albuquerque Sunport Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued March 1, 2021 9:07 PM MDT



Daily Temperature Data – ALBUQUERQUE INTL AP, NM

Period of Record – 1891-12-01 to 2021-02-28. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

The average temperature for Albuquerque was 40.4°, which was 1.0° below the normal of 41.4°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 52.8°. This was 0.3° above the normal average maximum temperature of 52.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 28.0°. This was 2.3° below the normal average minimum temperature of 30.3°. This February's average temperature was tied for the 62nd warmest on record.

February 2021 Climate Summary

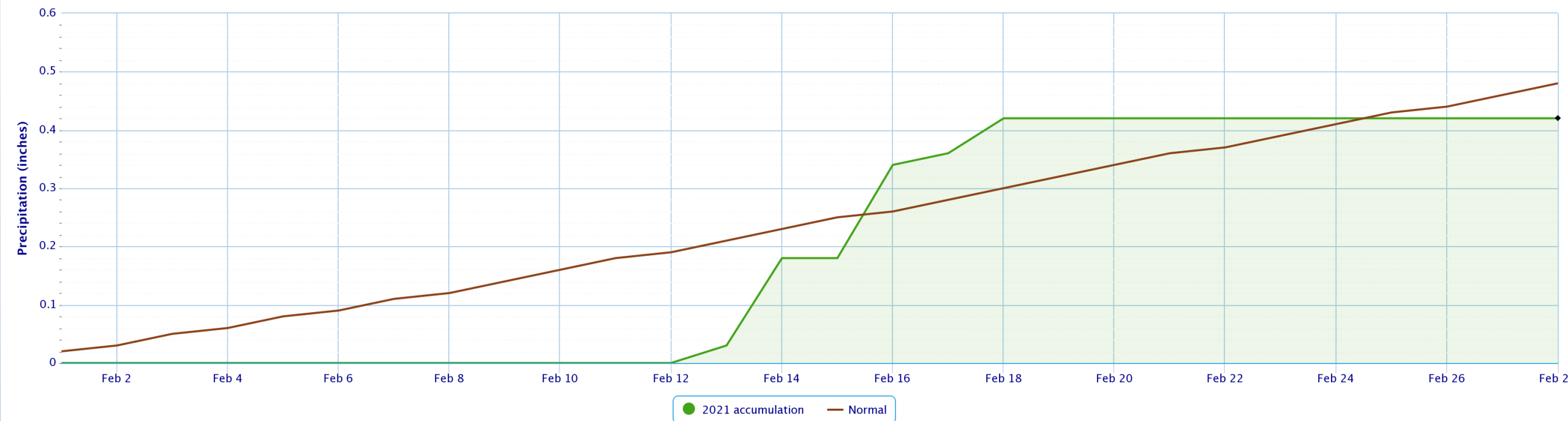
Albuquerque Sunport Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
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Accumulated Precipitation – Albuquerque Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Powered by ACIS

There was 0.42" of precipitation measured at the Sunport, compared to the normal of 0.48", or 0.06" below normal. This ranks as a tie for the 67th driest February on record (1892-2021). Snowfall measured 6.5 inches, compared to the normal of 1.8 inches, which ranks as the 5th snowiest February on record!

February 2021 Climate Summary

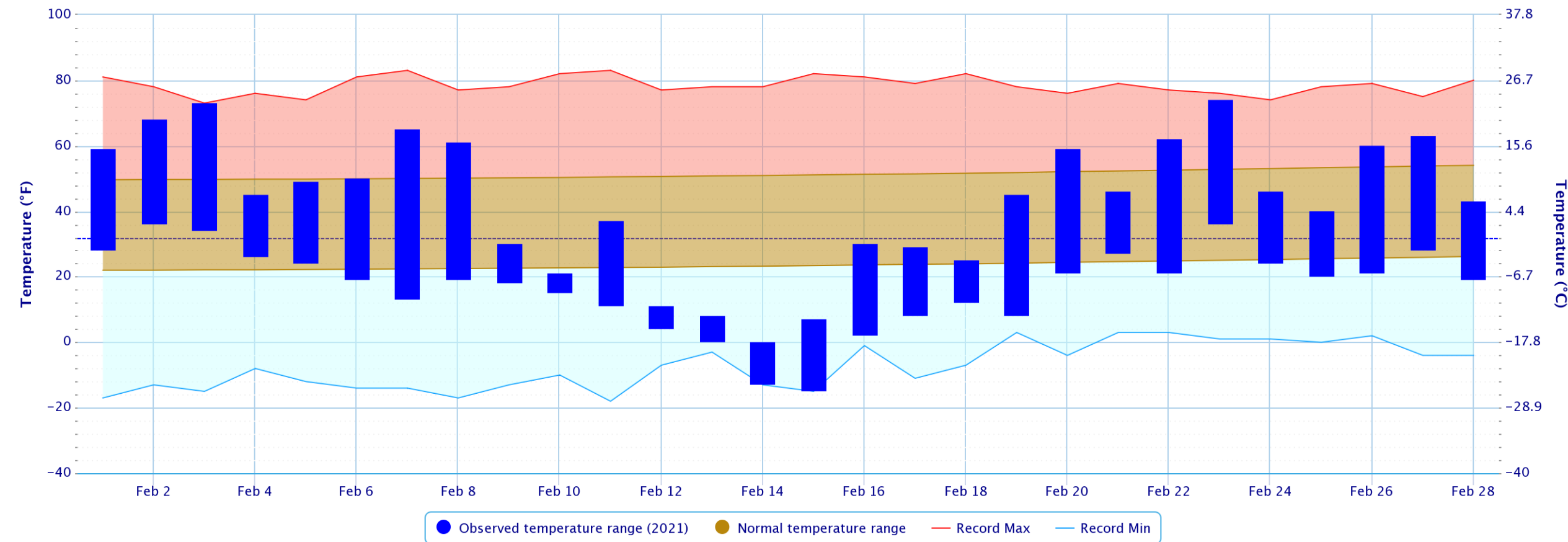
Clayton Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued March 1, 2021 9:07 PM MDT



Daily Temperature Data – CLAYTON MUNICIPAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record – 1896-02-01 to 2021-02-28. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

The average temperature for Clayton was 29.9°, which was 7.6° below the normal of 37.5°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 43.1°. This was 8.2° below the normal average maximum temperature of 51.3°! The average minimum temperature for the month was 16.6°. This was 7.0° below the normal average minimum temperature of 23.6°. February 2021 was tied for the 6th coldest on record (1896-2021)!

February 2021 Climate Summary

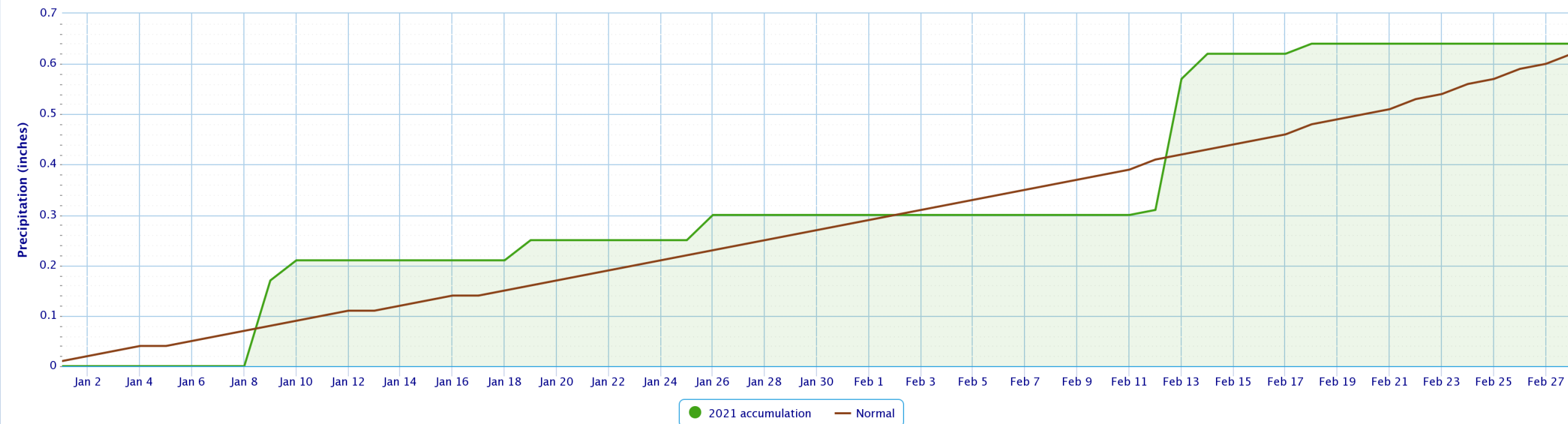
Clayton Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued March 1, 2021 9:07 PM MDT



Accumulated Precipitation – Clayton Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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There was 0.34" of precipitation measured at Clayton, which matched the normal of 0.34". This was the 67th driest February on record (1896-2021). Snowfall measured 7.8 inches, double the normal of 3.9 inches. This was the 14th snowiest February on record.

February 2021 Climate Summary

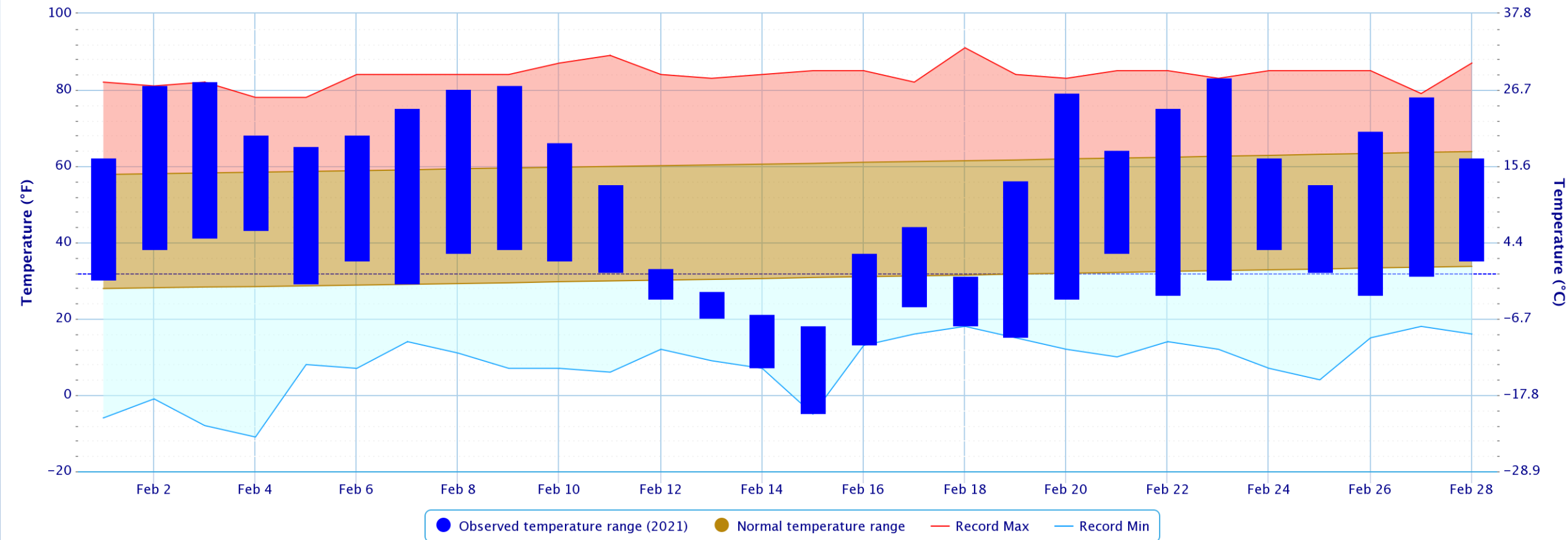
Roswell Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
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Daily Temperature Data – ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record – 1946-12-01 to 2021-02-28. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

The average temperature for Roswell was 43.9°, which was 1.8° below the normal of 45.7°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 59.9°. This was 0.8° below the average maximum temperature of 60.7°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 28.0°. This was 2.7° below the normal average minimum temperature of 30.7°. This was the 52nd coldest February on record (1893-2021).

February 2021 Climate Summary

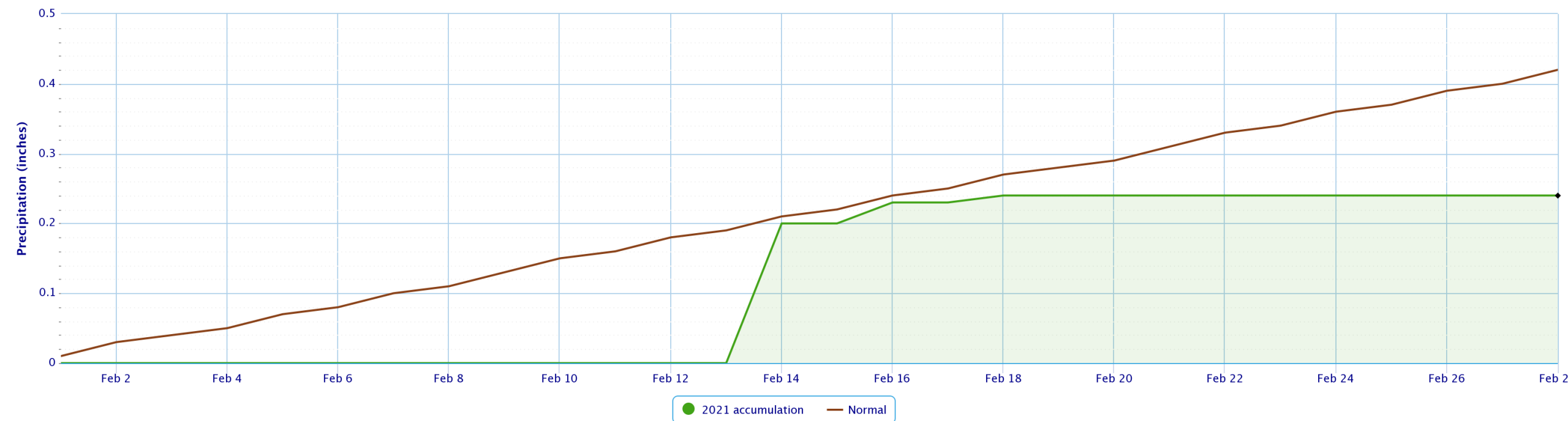
Roswell Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
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Accumulated Precipitation – Roswell Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Powered by ACIS

There was 0.24" of precipitation measured at Roswell, compared to the normal of 0.42", or 0.18" below normal. This ranks as the 64th driest February on record (1892-2021). Snowfall measured 5.2 inches, compared to the normal of 2.1 inches.

February 2021 Climate Summary

Severe Weather*

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Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
High Wind	2/3/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	59 kt	Gust	A wind gust up to 68 mph was reported at the Raton airport.
High Wind	2/4/2021	Northeast Highlands	52 kt	Gust	A wind gust up to 60 mph was reported at the Las Vegas airport.
High Wind	2/4/2021	Estancia Valley	50 kt	Gust	Wind gusts up to 58 mph were reported by an observer in Stanley.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Far Northwest Highlands	6"		Dulce area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Southwest Mountains	8-12"		Red Hill area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	San Francisco River Valley	4"		Aragon area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Tusas Mountains and Chama	10-13"		Chama area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Glorieta Mesa	3-6"		Glorieta area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains	7-10"		Taos Ski Valley to Red River.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mountains	5-8"		Eagle Nest to Ute Park.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Santa Fe Metro Area	3-5"		Santa Fe.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	ABQ Metro Area	2-4"		Albuquerque metro.
Blizzard	2/14/2021	ABQ Metro Area			High winds, snow, and blowing snow below Tijeras Canyon.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mountains	7-12"		Sandia Park to Sedillo and Edgewood.
Blizzard	2/14/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mountains			High winds, snow, and blowing snow.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Estancia Valley	5-6"		Moriarty area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Central Highlands	4-6"		Encinco to Vaughn.
Winter Storm	2/13-2/14/2021	Upper Tularosa Valley	70 mph		Carrizozo area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	South Central Mountains	8-12"		Ruidoso area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Northeast Highlands	5-6"		
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Guadalupe County	6"		Santa Rosa.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Curry County	4"		Clovis.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Chaves County Plains	3-4"		Roswell.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Eastern Lincoln County	10"		Arabela.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Southwest Chaves County	4"		Elk.

*Storm reports are considered preliminary until a final review is certified in the NWS Storm Data publication.
Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>

February 2021 Climate Summary

Severe Weather*



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Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Heavy Snow	2/13/2021	San Agustin Plains	4"		Magdalena.
Thunderstorm Wind	2/13/2021	Bernalillo County	54 kt	Gust	Thunderstorm wind gust to 60 mph on the ABQ west side.
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Central Highlands			Wind chills of 25 below to 30 below zero.
Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Curry County			Wind chills of about 18 below to 22 below zero.
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	2/14-2/15/2021	Union County			Wind chills were estimated to be 25 below to 30 below zero.
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Far Northeast Highlands			Wind chills were estimated to be about 25 below zero.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Glorieta Mesa	8"		Glorieta area.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains	17"		Taos Ski Valley to Red River.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains	13"		East of Santa Fe.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mountains	14"		Angel Fire area.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mountains	6"		Sandia Park to Sedillo and Edgewood.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/18/2021	South Central Mountains	11"		Ruidoso area.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/17/2021	Chuska Mountains	11"		Narbona Pass.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Santa Fe Metro Area	7"		Santa Fe.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/17/2021	Upper Rio Grande Valley	6"		Taos area.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/17/2021	Espanola Valley	1-3"		Espanola area.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/18/2021	ABQ Metro Area	2-6"		ABQ metro.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/18/2021	Northeast Highlands			Ribera area.
Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Guadalupe County			Wind chills of about 18 below zero.
Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Quay County			Wind chills were estimated to be about 18 below to 20 below zero.
Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Roosevelt County			Wind chills were estimated to be about 18 below to 20 below zero.
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Northeast Highlands			Wind chills were estimated to be about 25 below to 28 below zero.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Jemez Mountains	9"		Valles Caldera.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/18/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	4"		Philmont Scout Ranch.
High Wind	2/23/2021	Quay County	52 kt	Gust	Tucumcari reported peak wind gusts of 60 mph.

*Storm reports are considered preliminary until a final review is certified in the NWS Storm Data publication.
Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>



- ▶ NCEI Climatological Rankings: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/national/rankings>
- ▶ PRISM Climate Data: <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/>
- ▶ NWS Local Climate Pages: <https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=abq>
- ▶ NCEI Storm Data: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>
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